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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/628,819	07/28/2003	Walter L. Raines	Raines-003	5872

26604 7590 07/06/2005

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HOUSTON, TX 77268-0106

EXAMINER
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HAMILTON, LALITA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3624

DATE MAILED: 07/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/628,819

Applicant(s)

RAINES, WALTER L.

Examiner

Lalita M. Hamilton

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### **Request for Continued Examination (RCE)**

On April 11, 2005, the Applicant filed a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). The RCE has been accepted, and a new action follows below.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 5-6, 16, 18 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ballard (6,032,137).

Ballard discloses a method and corresponding system for processing and storing receipts comprising producing a plurality of paper receipts related to said plurality of credit card transactions such that each of said plurality of paper receipts comprise machine-readable data which identify each of said plurality of credit card financial transactions, each of said plurality of paper receipts comprises an endorsement by a representative of said plurality of purchasers to confirm each of said plurality of credit card financial transactions, optically scanning each of said plurality of paper receipts for producing an electronic representation of each of said plurality of paper receipts including said endorsement and for reading said machine-readable data on said paper receipt such that said machine-readable data is recognized, and electronically storing said electronic representation of said paper receipt utilizing said recognized machine-

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readable data so as to be organized for electronic retrieval based on said machine-readable data (col.3, lines 32-67; col.5, line 32 to col.6, line 12; and col.7, lines 5-30); printing said paper receipt with a printer operable for providing said machine-readable data on said paper receipt (col.5, line 32 to col.6, line 12); an endorsement is a signature (col.5, line 36 to col.6, line 12); and data comprises respective credit card number, date of purchase, and amount of purchase (col.3, lines 32-67; col.5, line 32 to col.6, line 12; and col.7, lines 5-30).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 2-4, 7-15, 17, and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ballard in view of Cruse (2002/0010659).

Ballard discloses the invention substantially as claimed; however, Ballard does not disclose data comprising machine-readable bar codes or textual print by OCR,

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providing credit card transaction information over the internet to said plurality of purchasers with an electronic presentation of the receipt, providing a web site on the internet which provides transaction information and a viewable copy of said plurality of receipts, or a password known by purchaser. Cruse teaches a method and corresponding system for viewing receipts comprising data comprising machine-readable bar codes and textual print by OCR (p.5, 61—may use any type of scanner), providing credit card transaction information over the internet to said plurality of purchasers with an electronic presentation of the receipt (p.5, 61), providing a web site on the internet which provides transaction information and a viewable copy of said plurality of receipts (p.5, 61), and a password known by purchaser (p.5, 61). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate comprising machine-readable bar codes or textual print by OCR, providing credit card transaction information over the internet to said plurality of purchasers with an electronic presentation of the receipt, providing a web site on the internet which provides transaction information and a viewable copy of said plurality of receipts, and a password known by purchaser, as taught by Cruse into the invention disclosed by Ballard, to provide a user with alternative means to access a copy of their paper receipt online.

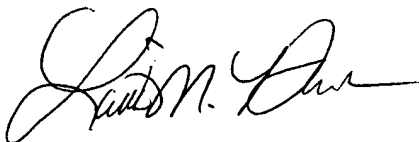
### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lalita M. Hamilton whose telephone number is (571) 272-6743. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Thursday (8:30-4:30).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on (571) 272-6747. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. M. H.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

LMH